I. *Part of a Letter to the Publiſher from Dr* Davies *concerning an unuſual Colic.*

Birmingham, Oct. 3d. 1701.

SIR,

LAſt *May*, my Ingenious Friend Dr *Shaw* of *Tamworth*, was pleaſed to deſire my aſſiſtance in the following caſe. A perſon, aged between 50 and 60, had been for 3 or 4 years laſt paſt troubled with Gripes, which generally return'd once a month, or thereabouts; his Body for the moſt part coſtive, and therefore was forced to ſpur Nature with *Daffy*'s Elixir or Aloes; ſometimes the ſmoaking a Pipe of Tobacco, ſupply'd the uſe of theſe Medicines. Laſt *April* coming from *London* heated himſelf very much with his Journey, having walked a good part of the way, and as ſoon as he came home, had a return of his Colic pains, which continued upon him for 18 days, notwithſtanding the methods commonly uſed in that caſe, during which time he had no Stool, beſides what the firſt and ſecond Clyſters brought away; his complaint upon his ſeizure was of a pain in his right ſide in the *Regio Iliaca*. Some time before he dyed his Belly ſwelled much, and was as tenſe as any Drum, he vomited for 2 or 3 days at the beginning, which left him, and returned not till juſt before he dyed, which was at the expiration of the 18th day, at which time he brought up 2 or 3 mouthfuls of black Choler; but never during his whole illneſs vomited any excrement. Dr *Shaw* who lived upon the ſpot, prevail'd to have an haſty Inſpection of his Abdomen, the Relations (it being a thing *Malæ famæ* in that Neighbourhood) deſired it might be done with all ſecrecy and expedition, which

which prevented the Doctors taking ſo nice a view of all the parts within the Abdomen as he would otherwiſe have done. He found ſome black Choler in the Stomach, the *Duodenum* and the reſt of the *Inteſtina tenuia* void of excrement, but incredibly diſtemper'd with Wind, and tracing the Canalis of the Guts as far as the *Cæcum*, found that of a blackiſh colour; and from thence for about a yard in length, the Colon mortified and ſo rotten, that the Excrements had made their way thro it at ſeveral places into the Cavity of the Abdomen; about 2 inches of the mortified Gut was faſtened to the *Peritonæum* on the right ſide. This part of the Colon was ſo extended with excrements of a ſoft conſiſtence, that they when taken out filled two Chamber-pots; at the extremity of the mortification, towards the *Rectum* the obſtruction which occaſioned all theſe miſfortunes offered it ſelf to view very plainly; for about ten inches of the Colon was doubled, as if you had taken a piece of Tape, and folded it the two contiguous ſurfaces of the duplicature adhered ſo firmly together, that you could not ſeparate them without tearing the exterior coat of the Inteſtine. Upon ſeparating this coaleſcence, there fell from that part a whitiſh Mucus, the adheſion was about 3 inches broad; the middle of the Duplicature which made the acute angle, and where the excrements ſtopped, was ſmaller, and the Membranes thinner than in any other part of the Gut; from thence towards the Rectum the Colon was ſound, and void of excrements, occaſioned by the frequent uſe of Clyſters.